

## Council Considers Cost Increases For Trash Removal, Other Models

by Matthew Arbach



City Manager Josué Salmerón, left, holds the microphone to John Lippert, right, who holds up a large-sized trash bag that could be used under the proposed fee-per-unit model.

During its May 5 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council discussed several options to deal with the serious financial situation concerning the city’s solid waste removal program. Serving a quarter of the city, comprised of 1,600 Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) homes and 900 single-

family homes, the city has largely been subsidizing the service from its general revenues for several years, causing the city to fall behind. The city has not changed the fee in nine years, with the problem compounded

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

## Greenbelt Cinema Celebrates Its Ten Years as a Nonprofit

by Melissa Sites

At a special gala celebration at Greenbelt Cinema on Saturday, May 3, supporters heaped praise upon the revivification and growth of the Cinema, a long-standing Greenbelt institution, which has flourished over the past 10 years under the leadership of Executive Director Caitlin McGrath. Mayor Emmett Jordan praised the Cinema for “promoting the arts and thriving as a nonprofit, both with films and its educational components.” Proclamations in honor of the Cinema were given by Jordan, City Council, State Senator Alonzo Washington and State Delegates Nicole Williams and Ashanti Martinez.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney remarked, “I love that the Cinema offers so many different options for our diverse community. I love that it does a lot of programming for young children and families, like on snow days, to be able to come and have an activity for children – that’s important, that educational and awareness component. This is a place that’s a hub of conversation. I really appreciate that they showed the Six Triple



From left, Executive Director Caitlin McGrath with Cinema administrative team members Lucy Cortez, Abby Jorgensen, Lauren Rankel and Stephenie Arcido

Eight (Tyler Perry’s movie about a heroic group of African American women soldiers during World War II). They also did Origin, which wasn’t put into a lot of mainstream media. But it’s critical to talk about in our world today.” Origin was the 2023 American biographical film directed

by Ava DuVernay exploring the life of historian Isabel Wilkerson as she wrote her prize-winning book, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents.

Williams comes to the Cinema to watch presidential debates on

See **CINEMA**, page 7

## Fire Department Data Shows Some Increasing Response Times

by Ryan Colasanti

Station 835 First Due Call Types & Response Times				
June 30 through April 26				
Call Type Category	Incident Responses (6/30/23-4/26/24)	Average Response Time (6/30/23-4/26/24)	Incident Responses (6/30/24-4/26/25)	Average Response Time (6/30/24-4/26/25)
Advanced Life Support	Total: 796	Average: 6:22	Total: 714	Average: 7:06
Basic Life Support	Total: 672	Average: 8:41	Total: 595	Average: 8:30
Fire	Total: 359	Average: 5:42	Total: 438	Average: 4:47
Non-Emergency	Total: 155	Average: 7:02	Total: 110	Average: 6:49
Rescue	Total: 1,385	Average: 4:22	Total: 1,244	Average: 5:26
Average Response Time for All Call Types: 6 minutes and 25 seconds				

Prince George’s County Fire Department data shows the recent average response times in Greenbelt (right) compared to a similar period a year earlier, before the removal of career firefighters.

Since the removal of career firefighters from Greenbelt on June 30, 2024, the Greenbelt community worried about longer response times and reduced service provided to the community. At the time of the announcement, Prince George’s County Fire Department (PGFD) Chief Tiffany Green estimated the average response time would be around eight minutes. Before the staffing reallocation plan the average response time in Greenbelt had been close to four minutes (see the June 13, 2024, News Review issue). In a series of letters sent to Mayor Emmett Jordan, Green

has provided updates on the state of fire and EMS service in the Greenbelt area.

### Increasing Average Response Times

The average response time for all types of calls from June 30, 2024, through December 28, 2024, sat at just under six minutes according to the January 3, 2025, letter. The time period encapsulates the early portion of the “staffing relocation plan.” The latest update from Green reports the average response time for any type of call has increased to six minutes and 25 seconds

See **DATA**, page 8

### What Goes On

**Monday, May 19**  
**7:30 p.m.**, City Council Budget Worksession: Recognition Groups (Group 2), Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, May 21**  
**7:30 p.m.**, ACE Student Awards, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for more information.

## Refugee Resettlement Organization Rallies to Continue Despite Freeze

by Ryan Colasanti

On January 20, President Donald Trump announced the future suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for an initial period of 90 days due to the country’s inability to “absorb large numbers of migrants, and in particular, refugees, into its communities in a manner that does not compromise the availability of resources for Americans, that protects their safety and security and that ensures the appropriate assimilation of refugees,” according to a press release on the White House website. The administration also halted Department of State funded services to recently resettled



LSSNCA's Greenbelt office serves hundreds of newly arrived refugees each year.

refugees.

“We expected for the Refugee Admissions program to stop or slow down significantly,” said Melina Roche, director of Communications and Government

See **REFUGEES**, page 6



Greenbelt Farmers Market opened for the 2025 season on Sunday. See page 12 for more photos.



# Letters to the Editor

## Successful GCC Donation Drive

On behalf of the Greenbelt Community Church, I'd like to thank the community for their continued support of our donation drives. For the past several years, the church has collected your boxes and bags of household goods, books, clothes and more with the goal of keeping your unwanted treasures out of landfills and giving them a second life. After the Saturday and Sunday collection, we drive the trailer to Value Village in Hillandale. The trailer is weighed, and the church receives payment based on the weight of items. We have supported various nonprofits and causes with the funds collected over the years including those that support the environment, hunger relief and human rights. For the goods we collected at the end of April, we raised \$624.40 for the Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund. Thanks to Sandy Hamlin and Ken Voigt for their efforts for this event. See you next October 25 to 26.

Karen Yoho



## More Thanks Due

Thanks for publishing my letter to you and Greenbelt residents. I had to minimize my original post to you and, in doing so, neglected a thank you to Nelly Ortiz, former supervisor of the Greenbelt Animal Shelter.

Although no longer in her position in Greenbelt, Ortiz stepped in during the interim from her current position at the New Carrollton Shelter, while Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) funding and management turnover were being settled. She spayed, neutered and TNR'd 10 cats as a help to my program.

Again, help me thank Ortiz for all her hard work and dedication to helping cats in our city!

Natalie Williams

*The original letter from Natalie Williams, Greenbelt Cats Need Your Help, appeared in the April 10, 2025, issue of the News Review.*



GREENBELT

News Review

Community Newspaper

All the news that fits, we print. But not without your help. Write with us!

[www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)



Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
[www.greenbeltcinema.org](http://www.greenbeltcinema.org)  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5  
OC = Open Captions  
CC = Closed Captions  
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:  
MAY 16th - 22nd

**William Tell**  
(R) (2024) (133 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 7:30 PM  
Sat. 7:50 PM  
Sun. 2:45 PM  
Tue. 5:00 PM  
Thurs. 7:45 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:00 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 5:30 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM  
Wed. 7:30 PM

**The President's Wife**  
(NR) (2023) (92 mins)  
French with English subtitles  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 5:45 PM  
Mon. 2:30 PM  
Wed. 5:30 PM  
Thurs. 5:30 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Sat. 8:10 PM  
Tue. 4:40 PM

**Pride & Prejudice**  
20th Anniversary (PG)  
(CC) (DVS) (2005) (128 mins)  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 5:00 PM  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Tue. 8:00 PM  
Wed. 7:45 PM  
**Screen 2** - The Screening Room  
Fri. 7:50 PM  
Sun. 2:30 PM  
Thurs. 7:30 PM

**Mirai** (PG) (2018) (98 mins)  
Cinema Pop! Japanese with English subtitles  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 1:00 PM

**Storytime on Screen** - Free!  
**Screen 1** - Main Auditorium  
Sun. 10:30 - 11:15 AM  
Mon. 10:30 - 11:15 AM

PETE REPERT

IN THE SPRING, A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY TURNS TO THOUGHTS OF POLLEN.



## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.







# Obituaries

## Sandra Zambreny



Sandra Lee Zambreny

Longtime Greenbelt resident Sandra “Sandy” Lee Zambreny (née Armiger) died on May 6, 2025, in Laurel, at the age of 84. She had spent her final years at the Autumn Lake Nursing Home.

Born on Christmas Day 1940 in Washington, D.C., to Robert and Ethel Armiger, Sandy grew up in Landover Hills, was a cheerleader at Glenridge Junior High School and graduated from Bladensburg Senior High. Over the course of her career, she worked for the Internal Revenue Service, the National Science Foundation and in the accounting department at Apex Plumbing Supply.

Known for her warmth, creativity and resilience, Sandy enjoyed crafting, bowling and dressing up as Magenta for midnight showings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. She cherished annual beach trips to Fenwick Island, Del., where she found great joy spending time with a large extended family, collecting seashells, and eating crabs and soft-serve ice cream on the boardwalk. She also cherished visits to Ann Arbor, Mich., to see her sister Jackie, along with her brother-in-law Larry, niece Carolyn and nephew David.

Sandy is survived by her husband, Alan Zambreny; daughter Lauren Zambreny Wibbe; sister Jacqueline (Jackie) Sterns; niece Carolyn Jull (née Sterns); nephew David Sterns; granddaughters Celeste and Joli Wibbe; as well as many cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ethel and Robert Armiger, Sr.; brother, Robert Armiger, Jr.; and brother-in-law, Larry Henkel.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to National Public Radio or The New Deal Café.



## Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience Robbins at [patience.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:patience.robbins@gmail.com).

## Margaret Warner



Margaret Warner

Margaret Warner, 84, died peacefully in her sleep on the morning of January 11, 2025, in Peterborough, N.H.

Born in 1940 in Exeter, N.H., Margaret lived in various small towns in New Hampshire as a child. She attended the University of New Hampshire where she earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, and later graduated from the University of Maryland Library School with a master of library science degree.

She moved to Greenbelt Homes, Inc. in 1971 and lived there for the next 35 years. She worked for all those years as a librarian at Prince George’s Community College, and was active in the Paint Branch Unitarian Church, singing in their choir. She retired in 2006 and returned to her roots in Antrim, N.H., where she was very active in the town (leading their library board), Peterborough Unitarian Church, The Monadnock Chorus and the community.

With a particular fondness for children’s literature, Marga-

ret travelled widely around the country and to Europe to attend children’s literature conferences, where she hobnobbed with noted authors and collected signed volumes of their works. She cultivated a large personal library, not only of children’s literature but other literature as well. She cracked open a book whenever she had a spare moment and would often start and end her day reading in bed.

Margaret always had pets, mostly dogs and cats (with a few gerbils, hamsters and skinks when she had young children). She loved little more than sitting propped up in bed, a dog on one side of her and a cat nestled on the other, a book in her lap and a cup of coffee on the bedside table.

Margaret loved gardening, music and singing, travel and the theater and loved her family. She is survived by her sons Jason (Needham, Mass.) and Jeremy (Bethesda) and her granddaughters Melissa (Medford, Mass.), Asha (Lansing, Mich.) and Sarah (Needham, Mass.).

## Mishkan Torah Invites All to Fun Day May 18

Mishkan Torah invites the community to join them on Sunday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for a Lag B’Omer Fun and Field Day celebration. Enjoy a vegetarian picnic, family-friendly activities and a festive atmosphere – rain or shine. Sign up on the synagogue’s website by Friday, May 16, and email questions to [RSVP@MishkanTorah.org](mailto:RSVP@MishkanTorah.org).



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-5410  
Pastor Evelyn Romero



**Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrate hope with us.**

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

Welcomes you each Sunday for  
Worship & Sunday School  
at 10:00 AM

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
One Hillside Road

We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School**

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



## Mowatt Hosts Peace And Justice Sing-along

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will host a Peace and Justice Sing-along gathering on Saturday, May 17 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. All musicians and singers (professionals, amateurs and simply music lovers) are invited to join in.

This event is themed around peace and justice, aiming to transform the negative energy surrounding current events into something positive and peaceful. The group will then walk down to Roosevelt Center to disperse and spread peace and justice in the community.

All are invited to bring their instruments, voices and positive energy to help celebrate and promote peace and justice through music, connect with fellow musicians and community members and contribute to a positive and uplifting atmosphere.

For more information, contact Amy and Eileen Murray-Kraft at [singalongpeaceandjustice@gmail.com](mailto:singalongpeaceandjustice@gmail.com).



Our sympathies to the families and friends of Sandra Zambreny who died on May 6. She was a longtime resident of Greenbelt who enjoyed her many trips to the Delaware beaches and Michigan with family.

Condolences to the friends and family of Margaret Warner who died on January 11. She loved her pets of all kinds during her many years in Greenbelt.

Congratulations to the staff and supporters of the Greenbelt Cinema on its 10th anniversary as a nonprofit.


Congratulations too to the new members of Greenbelt Homes Inc.’s board of directors and Audit Committee.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
[www.myholycross.org](http://www.myholycross.org)  
Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M.  
Bible Study: 11:15 A.M.

**Thursday Thrift Store**  
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

“When...the equality of men and women [is] realized, the foundations of war will be utterly destroyed.”  
– ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

 **Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT**

**Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**  
**COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION**  
**Community Center Room 114**  
**15 Crescent Rd**  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**  
**OR - Join us on ZOOM!**  
**For ZOOM link:**  
**[CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://ccg1985+owner@groups.io)**

**The Bible Says...**

**But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.**  
**1 Corinthians 13:13**

 **Sunday Worship Services**  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)  
**MCFcc.org**



**Mishkan Torah Congregation**  
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.*

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community 

**May 18, 2025 at 3 p.m.**  
**Dancing Our Common Ground: 20th Annual Dance Service**

*PBUUC Chalice Dancers with Worship Associate Carol Boston*

We dance to feel oneness with our ancestors. We dance to celebrate the joy of our human community. We dance to seek a wholeness that extends into the future. Please join Sharon Werth and PBUUC’s Chalice Dancers for the 20th Annual Dance Service. Bring your dancing spirit!

*Streaming on PBUUC’s Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD*



## 2025 GHI Election Results

At the annual membership meeting on May 8, Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) members elected candidates to serve on the Board of Directors, Audit Committee and Nominations and Elections Committee. No seats were contested. The results are below. An asterisk indicates election to office.

### Board of Directors

Six of nine positions were up for election: five two-year terms and one one-year term (vacant due to a resignation).

- 237 Philip Larkin\*
- 225 Nancy Boyd\*
- 222 Paul Kapfer\*
- 215 Chuck Hess\*
- 215 Victoria Whitten\*
- 212 Sabrina Baron\* – elected to one-year term

Of the six elected, all are returning members but Whitten, who is new to the board.

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee members serve one-year terms so all three seats were up for election.

- 243 Carl Sanders\*
- 240 Stephen Holland\*
- 238 Bill Jones\*

Jones and Holland were seeking re-election and Sanders will be new to the committee.

### Nominations and Elections Committee

Five Nominations and Elections Committee Members were elected by acclamation at the annual meeting. They will serve one-year terms

- Dan Gillotte\*
- Theresa R. Henderson\*
- Tom Jones\*
- Joe Ralbovsky\*
- Luisa Robles\*

### Total Votes

The election utilized the online platform SimplyVoting.com. Voting took place from Thursday night, when the annual membership meeting went into recess, until 8 p.m. Friday. The Nominations and Elections Committee also supported members voting in person, using the same web interface, which included members who did not receive the GHI email with a link to vote, those who do not have an email address and those who preferred to vote with support.

Two hundred seventy-six total ballots were cast, all online. None were disqualified. There were no absentee ballots and no proxy ballots.



## Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

## Contemporary Photos At Community Center

Through June 12, discover eight contemporary photos interspersed among the historic photos of Greenbelt in the first-floor halls of the Community Center. These images comprise the “Invisible City” project by Danielle Towers, a photojournalism student at the Corcoran School of Arts and Design who made the photos in the spring of 2024.

## Greenbelt Concert Band Celebrates Greenbelt

Enjoy a dynamic performance featuring a variety of musical styles that celebrate the spirit of Greenbelt in a concert for the community on Sunday, June 8 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym. The concert is free but donations to the Greenbelt Concert Band are appreciated. For more information, visit [greenbeltconcertband.org](http://greenbeltconcertband.org).

## Yarn Donations Needed

Gifts from the Heart is a group of knitters and crocheters who meet Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Center. Every year they donate hundreds of hats, blankets, baby items etc. Donations of acrylic yarn are welcome and may be dropped off when the group meets or at the Community Center office during business hours.

## Award-Winning Film OnStreetArtistTMNK

On Saturday, May 31 at 1 p.m. the Greenbelt Cinema will host a screening of Nobody Was Here: The Life of TMNK. This powerful documentary explores the life and artistry of TMNK (The Me Nobody Knows), a former advertising marketing professional who became a renowned street artist.



# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

### MEETINGS FOR MAY 19-23

Monday, May 19 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - RECOGNITION GROUPS (GROUP 2)**

Tuesday, May 20 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Report on Demographic Info, Community Outreach Survey, AARN Research Update, Survey of Commissioners, Stakeholder Outreach, The Baltimore American Indian Center, Statewide Reparations, Announcements*

Wednesday, May 21 at 7:30 pm, **ACE STUDENT AWARDS**

Wednesday, May 21 at 7 pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda:*

Thursday, May 22 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, May 22 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** *On the Agenda: Stewardship Updates and Discussion, Green Man Festival Outreach Exhibit - Follow-up Discussion, Fire Education and Risk Management, FPAB Member Recruitment*

*In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/calendar).*

### SENIOR DRIVER SAFETY & MOBILITY SEMINAR

Wednesday, May 21, 10-11 am

Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

The session will be led by Kurt Gray, a traffic safety expert with 20 years of experience in driver education. He'll discuss common driving challenges faced by older adults and offer practical strategies to help them stay safe behind the wheel.

To register, call (202) 670-6497.

### FREE WEBINAR SERIES

Presented by DFA Northern Prince George's County & Greenbelt CARES

**May 22:** 3 Key Steps in Empowered Dementia Care with Debra James

**June 12:** Diagnosis Dementia: Now What? with Melissa Long

Contact Brendy Garcia at (202) 670-6497 or [bgarcia@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltnmd.gov).

### FEATURED PETS JUNIOR

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124.

Six-year-old Junior has been in a foster home for almost a year and is still looking for a forever home! Junior (now affectionately nicknamed Juni) has insulin-dependent diabetes, but he doesn't let that slow him down. While administering an insulin shot might seem scary, Junior takes his medicine like a champ.

Junior's foster says he's a gentle soul. He's super affectionate and loves to be wherever the household action is. His favorite activity is sitting by the door or window and watching the local wildlife and ongoing outside (he's a great neighborhood watch). He also gets along with everyone he meets — including his cat and dog foster siblings!

If you're interested in adopting jazzy Juni, call (301) 474-6124 or [animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov)!



### RFP: HANOVER PARKWAY BIKEWAY FACILITY 90% ENGINEERING DESIGN PLAN

Close date: May 30 at 3 pm

The City of Greenbelt ("Owner") requests proposals from qualified civil engineering professionals ("Consultant") for the preparation of 90% engineered design of the Hanover Parkway Bikeway Facility project for the future construction of an off-street bikeway facility along a 1.9-mile corridor on Hanover Parkway.

Please provide an electronic and original hard copy to:

Ryan Sigworth, AICP, Community Planner II  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
15 Crescent Road, Ste. 200, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
[sigworth@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:sigworth@greenbeltnmd.gov), (240) 542-2042

All requests for clarifications or additional information related to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing (via email) by May 1, 2025 and directed to Ryan Sigworth AICP, Community Planner II, at [rsigworth@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:rsigworth@greenbeltnmd.gov).

All answers will be provided in writing and posted on the City's website on or before May 16, 2025.

[View the RFP at Hanover Parkway Bikeway Facility 90% Engineering Design RFP](#)

View the existing 30% engineered design plan at Appendices and 30% Engineered Design Plan.

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day  
**THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.**

### REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of May 26

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday  
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday  
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday  
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

*There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, May 30.*

### ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/arts](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/arts) for more information and many other opportunities!

**Choreography Club Performance!** Friday, 5/23, Greenbelt Community Center, 3pm. Aspiring young choreographers have produced a delightful program for you to enjoy! The performance is costumed and choreographed by members of the Club. Reservations not required.

**Two NEW Spring Classes!** Both at Greenbelt Community Center. Fused Glass Wall Art or Dish: Monday, 5/26, starting at 11am. Fused glass is the art of melting colored glass into art pieces. The Stitchery: Mondays, 5/26-6/30, 5:30-7:30pm. Embroider a flower basket from a kit, or bring your own project. See [greenbeltnmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/arts) for more information.

### MORE ARTS IN MAY & JUNE

- **Flower Felting Workshop**, 5/18 & 5/25, Greenbelt Community Center
- **Art Share** (meet-up) 5/23, **Youth Art Share** 6/5, Greenbelt Community Center
- **June Artful Afternoons**, 6/1 (Greenbelt Community Center) and 6/8 (Springhill Lake Recreation Center) Advanced sign-up recommended.

### COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:  
*The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.*

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

### GREENBELT JOB FAIR

Saturday, May 17 12-3 pm

*Beltway Plaza Mall (Near the old T.J. Maxx), 6000 Greenbelt Rd*

Join us for our semi-annual Greenbelt Job Fair! Learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Contact Deji Ayoku for more information or to register your business for the Job Fair by emailing [dayoku@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:dayoku@greenbeltnmd.gov).

### JOIN THE CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city? Do you want to have a say in how our local government operates? Now is your chance to make a difference!

The City of Greenbelt is forming a Charter Review Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to our city's charter. We are looking for dedicated residents who are eager to contribute their time and expertise to this important process.

Submit an application at the following link: <https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/boards-committees/application-for-appointment-to-boards-and-committees>.

For more information or to apply, please contact City Clerk at [banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov) or (301) 474-3870.



## REFUGEES continued from page 1

Relations for Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSSNCA), which has a headquarters in Greenbelt. “What we didn’t expect is the work that we had been contracted for and funds had been appropriated for, to all of a sudden, overnight, be turned off.” A statement from the organization in January said, “The stop work order abruptly ends critical wraparound support LSSNCA had planned to provide refugees who arrived with legal status as recently as two weeks ago.”

### Greenbelt Office

LSSNCA’s Greenbelt office is on the 12th floor of a Greenway Center office building. Inside there are still cheerful staff, a cozy waiting area with some playful elements for children, a bulletin board full of flyers advertising assistance with an array of things ranging from social security numbers and work authorization to enrolling children in schools, TB tests, English classes, WIC and even clothing. Though it’s welcoming inside, a note taped to the door reminds people to keep it locked.

### Aid to Refugees

The LSSNCA was one of several refugee welcome agencies that were impacted by the suspension of USRAP. The organization started in 1917 and works throughout the region in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland, according to their website. The group provides a range of services starting with the reception of refugees at the airport, Hirut Gebretsadik, communication

manager for LSSNCA, told the News Review. The case managers assigned to welcome those refugees continue to help them find jobs, homes, pay rent and sign their children up for local schools throughout their first 90 days in the country. In addition to those services, LSSNCA also helps with wellness and legal services and pairs minors traveling alone with host families through the D.C. foster care system. The organization welcomed over 550 refugees through their Greenbelt office and helped over 4,000 refugees in total during its 2024 fiscal year. In the span of time between October 2024 through the suspension date (January 24, 2025) the organization welcomed over 300 refugees through the Greenbelt office, according to Gebretsadik.

### Cuts and Layoffs

The capacity for aid dwindled when the freeze caused the organization to lay off 65 of its case workers. “You have refugees sitting, [they] just entered the United States, they know that they’re promised certain services, but then we don’t have case managers to be handling those, to be providing those services,” said Gebretsadik.

The turmoil caused an abundance of confusion for refugees in the country, Gebretsadik said. Some even contemplated returning to their home country despite the great risk of returning. “It was an extremely dark time,” she said. Throughout the “dark time” the organization powered through, thanks to the flexibility

of its own employees and contributions from the community around them.

### Coping

Once the organization communicated its struggles to the public, individuals and families came forward in bunches to ask how they could help, said Gebretsadik. Volunteers quickly became the lifeblood of the organization by donating time, money and even food to the cause. Other volunteers became case managers – following a training course – replacing those that were laid off due to the lack of funding. Roles within the organization also shifted. Gebretsadik went above and beyond in her role as communication manager, talking with refugees regularly when their case managers just disappeared, almost acting as a case manager herself.

“Positions were rearranged,” said Roche. “... With those shifts we were able to, for the most part, keep operations going as best as we could.” Roche added that the restructuring of the organizational depth chart required a ton of communication internally to make sure everyone understood what was happening at any given moment.

Due to LSSNCA’s ability to adapt and the influx of volunteers ready to help in any capacity, the organization is weathering the storm and continuing services as best they can. On April 20, the initial 90-day reassessment period mentioned in the press release ended, which is when a report from U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem and Sec-

retary of State Marco Rubio on USRAP status was to be sent to the President for him to consider the resumption of the program. According to an article by Forbes published on April 28, there has been no public announcement on whether the report was sent to the President or what information it contained.

Roche is hoping that the report means she and her organization can return to helping refugees in the capacity they did before January 24 when the stop work order was officially issued.

“I think this is my eternal optimism coming through,” she said. “I would love for it to be a ‘we looked at the structures, at the process and we believe that we can resume.’”

*Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.*

## Stamp Out Hunger Close to Home

Greenbelt PORCH pickups:

Saturday, May 17 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill.

Sunday, May 18 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and for PAL (PORCH at large) members. Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on May 18 at SpreadRUAK@gmail.com and he will come to your porch.

Sunday, May 18 – by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive, 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road and 8 and 10 Courts South-way.

## City Notes

At the Animal Shelter, Public Works installed a new washer/dryer and replaced window screens. Horticulture/Parks/Ballfields crew repaired a vandalized bus shelter. Information Technology installed new copiers at Public Works and Finance.

Environmental and Park Rangers presented an event for 12 birders and, with seven volunteers, removed invasive plants at Greenbelt Lake.

The outdoor pool passed county inspection and opened May 12. Public Works prepared and painted the pool decking.

Park Rangers facilitated events by potters, nursery school, garden club and numerous other community organizations.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center hosted Pre-K Bilingual Storytime and an Artful Afternoon. The Museum and Recreation Arts presented a lecture with 42 people attending and Therapeutic Recreation hosted a presentation on arthritis.

CARES staff presented at a health event in College Park and, during April, counseled 44 youths, tutored 29 students, taught 11 ESOL learners and supported 31 GED or work-seeking clients. Greenbelt Connection provided 135 rides.

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Annapolis, MD



Review

# Rude Mechanicals Bring Much Ado to Greenbelt Arts Center

by Melissa Sites

In Shakespeare’s *Much Ado About Nothing*, Benedick (Erin Nealer) and Beatrice (Rebecca Korn) are possibly the bard’s most relatable couple. Intellectual equals, they pretend they don’t want to be partnered, when actually they’ve been dancing around

each other so long that their family and friends are ready and willing to plague them about it. Crucially, they both care enough about their loved ones to take action when bad things happen.

Things take a bad turn when Benedick’s young friend Claudia

(Claudia H. Bach) proclaims she will marry Beatrice’s cousin Hero (Peri Walker), even though they haven’t even spoken. Director Shirley Long, casting women in the roles of Benedick, Claudia and Joan (originally Claudio and John), complicates the idea of “toxic masculinity” by demonstrating how patriarchal ideals harm everyone in the play, regardless of their gender. Nealer plays Benedick as a little awkward and sweetly vulnerable, while Bach’s Claudia is emotional and easily duped. Hero is sweet, bright-eyed and alert, which makes it all the more sad when she is targeted by evil.

The play’s villain is “Joan the Bastard” (Joann Robertson), Prince Pedro’s evil elder sister. Robertson plays Joan as bitter and willing to score malevolent points without a care as to who will suffer. Because Pedro (Wes Dennis) seems like a fair and honorable prince, Joan’s villainy stands out more starkly.

Dogberry (Daniel Douek), the captain of the guard, is one of Shakespeare’s funniest comic characters, because he always uses the wrong words and consistently misunderstands his role as night watchman. In this production, Dogberry wears a police light strapped to his head and comically zooms about on a tiny Segway, which seems as if it will certainly lead to some hilarious accident. The night watch have overheard Joan’s vile minions and must thwart their evil plan, and it is fun to see sleek villains foiled by bumbling good guys.

This show includes a lot of fun physical comedy, while the more tragic elements are played down. The *Rude Mechanicals* make the play accessible, appealing and understandable for lovers of Shakespeare and novices alike.

Much Ado about Nothing will play at Greenbelt Arts Center Friday and Saturday this weekend, May 16 and 17, at 8 p.m. Visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).



Peri Walker as Hero, Rebecca Korn as Beatrice (in the cart) and Joshua Engel as Arturo

Reel and Meal

## Film Depicts Faith Petric’s Life of Fearless Activism

by Donna Hoffmeister

The documentary, *Singing for Justice*, about folk musician and activist Faith Petric will screen Monday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the New Deal Café. Born in an Idaho log cabin in 1915, Petric helped migrant workers during the Great Depression and worked as a Rosie the Riveter building Liberty ships during World War II. Despite facing FBI surveillance during the Cold War, Petric continued her activism, marching for racial justice in Selma, Ala. In her 80s, she protested war as part of the Raging Grannies movement.

*Singing for Justice* showcases how Petric used folk music – including union anthems, protest songs, traditional ballads and humorous tunes – to inspire action and solidarity. Throughout her long career, Petric performed at civil rights marches, anti-war protests and events supporting labor and LGBTQ+ rights. “In times of darkness, Faith showed that a well-sung song could light the way forward,” says Estelle Freedman, director of the film, who will attend the screening via Zoom.

The Labor Heritage Foundation (LHF), sponsor of the

film, is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit working to preserve America’s labor history through art and music. Elise Bryant, former executive director of LHF will lead the post-film discussion.

Following the film, attendees will enjoy a special performance by the acclaimed D.C. Labor Chorus. They are bound to ignite a community sing-along. Note that the film’s start time of 6:30 p.m. is earlier than usual. While the film is free, the Café has a dinner menu with several plant-based options available for purchase. Those unable to attend in person can register to watch via Zoom at [tinyurl.com/RnMMay25](http://tinyurl.com/RnMMay25).

PHOTO BY RACHEL ZIRKIN DUDA

## CINEMA continued from page 1

the big screen. Councilmember Kristin Weaver enjoys the collective experience of seeing movies at the Cinema, “learning stories that I wouldn’t have thought to go looking for,” remembering that the showing of the *Six Triple Eight* was attended by representatives and relatives of the real-life heroes. Former mayor J Davis and Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee member Lois Rosado pointed out that different groups often cooperate to help bring events to the Cinema, such as the documentary that preceded Tyler Perry’s film and the proclamation given at the Cinema to one of the woman soldiers by former mayor Colin Byrd. Community member Judy Goldberg-Strassler said, “We just keep coming here for all the great movies and the fabulous speakers.”

McGrath remembered having a booth at the Greenbelt Farmers Market 10 years ago, “with a jar and an idea about what this place could become,” a vision of returning the Cinema to the community resource it was always meant to be, “watching hard things, talking about difficult subjects, laughing collectively, finding common ground.” McGrath thanked “the wisdom of our city council who made sure this space survives,” as well as the Cinema’s board of directors and administration team. McGrath noted two particularly outstanding community moments: at a showing of *Elf*, where people made snowballs out of new socks to be



PHOTO BY IAN BLACKWELL ROGERS

Greenbelt Cinema celebrates its 10th anniversary.

given to people in need, a man came in and gave all the cash he had in his wallet. Another donor gave \$20,000 in honor of the longevity of the Cinema, being able to see movies that are not mainstream and to hear the lecture and discussion series. McGrath outlined plans to expand the Cinema’s already wide array of programming, to include Baby and Me, sensory friendly showings, Book vs. Movie events and an Advancing the Frame program to empower middle school girls.

The gala opened with local broadcasting icon and eight-time Emmy winner Arch Campbell giving signed copies of his book, *The Accidental Critic: A Television News Memoir*, to members of the crowd. A silent auction was held alongside a fun trivia contest about film history, including film clips, soundtrack music and an impressive array of head shots of “nepo babies” to test attendees’ knowledge. Food trucks and a move to Roosevelt Center rounded out the evening of entertainment and celebration.



### Kim Kash’s Listings

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COUNCIL continued from page 1

by the county recently raising its landfill tipping fee. City Manager Josué Salmerón expressed the need for a “sustainable” approach, seeing that “now is as good a time as any” to finally adjust the model.

Attending the meeting to provide recommendations were representatives from Green ACES, Waste Zero, the GHI Board and the city’s Sustainability Coordinator, Luisa Robles.

The city asked Green ACES to provide a recommendation on raising the trash and recycling fee. John Lippert, representing Green ACES, proposed raising the fee from the current \$280/year to \$360/year, matching the county charges. This possible increase would start at the onset of Fiscal Year 2026.

**Save As You Throw**  
To illuminate a further Green ACES proposal, the mission-driven benefit corporation Waste Zero (wastezero.com), represented by Kristen Brown, was on hand to present what Green ACES has dubbed a “save as you throw” (SAYT), or unit-based pricing system. The program would comprise a flat base fee, with participants then responsible for purchasing their own city-approved trash bags, sized small, medium and large, to be used in any combination needed. Brown said that her experience with SAYT in other states has been a lower cost for most consumers and a decrease in the amount taken to landfills, with an increase in recycling, reusing and donations. For those not wishing to take part in the SAYT model, an opt-out, convenience fee would be charged.

Green ACES suggested a flat fee of either \$220 or \$240 per year, with an opt-out fee of \$410. Bag prices for those participating in SAYT would be: small \$.80; medium \$1.25; and large \$2. Before the SAYT program could commence, Waste Zero would have to work with local vendors to carry the bags, with the city getting a cut of proceeds. A period of public education by the city and Waste Zero would also be required.

**Participation Effects**  
Based on these metrics, a spreadsheet was shared showing possible participation rates and the corresponding financial surplus or deficit that could result. A higher participation rate



Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles and Green ACES Chair John Lippert

meant less of a possible surplus, depending on the fee the city decides to charge, as fewer people would be paying the higher opt-out fee.

Brown outlined a pressing nationwide problem of an insufficient number of landfills to support a rising population, with the number of new landfills being cited as not keeping up with demand. She said that many communities simply don’t want a landfill in their area. Brown said that waste removal should be seen as a utility, like power and water, with cost dependent on usage.

It was pointed out at the meeting that some developments use a private waste collector, charging a lower fee than the city. Yet, Robles cited that these private companies do not offer the same amount of extra services, like bulk trash and lawn waste removal, as does the city. Robles said that the SAYT model would still include the same city services currently offered.

**GHI Views**  
Stefan Brodd, president of the GHI Board, shared the sentiments of GHI, that a SAYT model is possible, but any decision would preferably wait until formalizing the next budget. He worried about the administrative costs and efforts of this new program. Council and Robles noted

Lippert said that Green ACES hopes that if the city adopts SAYT, part of the potential surplus revenue could go toward continuing to subsidize the curbside food scraps pickup program.

Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver shared a recent survey of the program’s 410 participants, which indicated that 100 percent of respondents would be willing to pay \$5 per month to continue, with the percentage going down for an added amount, ending with 15 percent willing to pay \$25. The survey showed a high appreciation of the program.

It was pointed out at the meeting that a consumer charge for curbside composting could be negotiated with the Compost Crew provider. Council indicated that any final decision on much of this will have to wait until the current budget has been deliberated. Salmerón wanted at least a 30-day window to alert residents to any change, and that after the obligatory two resolution hearings, any implementation would occur in August at the earliest.

Salmerón cited the city’s \$4M deficit and the contributing revenue drain that waste removal draws from the city’s reserves, at \$10,000 per month. He said that council faces a tough choice on this issue, and must move forward based on an informed decision.

that these details would need to be ironed out.

**Food Scraps Pickup**

The future funding of the city’s curbside compost removal was discussed. At the moment, the service is free, subsidized by a USDA grant. The grant expires in August.

DATA continued from page 1

from June 30, 2024, through April 26, 2025. That’s nearly an eight percent increase from the January 3 update. (*Editor’s note:* This increase does not reflect the times for the most recent month compared to previous months, but rather the average calculated over the first six months compared to an average calculated for a ten-month period (including that first six months in calculations of a new average). In this way, each new average provided by PGFD is for cumulative months, thus an average calculated over an increasingly large number of data points.)

**Fire and Rescue Response**

While most of the response times across different call types have fluctuated during the four 2025 updates, two categories – fire response and rescue response – have steadily increased throughout the timeline of reports. The first report analyzing response time data between June 30, 2024, and December 28, 2024, reported the average response time of fire calls at four minutes and five seconds. That time increased by 10 seconds in Green’s January 31 update and escalated to four minutes and 21 seconds in her March 14 letter. The latest update containing data from June 30, 2024, through April 26, 2025, registers the average response time of fire-related calls at four minutes and 47 seconds with a total of 438 fire calls through April 26. Since the first report on January 3, 2025, the average response time to these specific calls has increased by 42 seconds. The average response time for rescue calls also steadily increased since the initial period of June 30, 2024, through December 28, 2024. In the January 3, 2025, report Green wrote that the average response time to those types of calls was four minutes and 36 seconds using data from June 30, 2024, through December 28, 2024. In the latest report sent on May 2, the average response

time increased to five minutes and 26 seconds, according to data between June 30, 2024, through April 26, 2025. It’s an increase of about 18 percent, although it should be noted that the number of rescue calls increased by close to 42 percent over that time.

**Who’s Responding**

In Green’s May 2 update letter, there were a total of 3,338 responses in Greenbelt Fire Station’s first due area from stations all throughout Prince George’s County from June 30, 2024, through April 26, 2025. The station that responded to the majority of calls in the area was Berwyn Heights Station 814, which responded to over 26 percent of calls in the area (880 of the 3,338), increasing its number of responses by 140 from June 30, 2023, through April 26, 2024. In addition to Berwyn Heights’ increased response in the area, West Lanham Hills Fire Station and National Harbor Station responded to 17 percent and 13.4 percent of calls respectively; in the area from June 30, 2024, through April 26, 2025. Greenbelt Station 835 responded to 2.6 percent of calls during that stretch of time, a total of 86 responses out of the total 3,338 responses. By contrast, prior to the reallocation of career firefighters, from June 30, 2023, through April 26, 2024, Station 835 responded to the majority of calls in the area, responding 1,364 times out of a total 3,546 responses.

*Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.*



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 5 - 11, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

**Incident Summary**  
Greenbelt Police reported one death; four mental health diversions, one involving attempted suicide and one involving vandalism; two domestic incidents and a sexual assault case involving Child Protective Services.

**Robbery**  
On May 6 at 2:11 p.m., a woman was robbed at gunpoint at the intersection of Capitol Drive and Greenbelt Road. A man waved her over, and when she rolled down her window to see what he wanted, he pulled out a gun, stole her money and fled on foot.

**Armed Threats**  
On May 5 at 6:08 p.m. near 99 Centerway, three boys were arguing with a woman after they harassed her niece. One kept reaching into his pants as if he had a weapon, and she asked the boy to call his mother, which he refused. Then, a man wearing a black hoodie pulled a handgun with an extended magazine out of his waistband and pointed it at them. The boys fled when they heard police arriving.

On May 11 at 1:33 a.m. near 5805 Cherrywood Lane, a man was waving a gun at two people then fled. Subsequently an armed man was involved in a theft from a vehicle. Officers arrested him, recovered a loaded handgun, and sent him to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections on multiple charges.

On May 11 at 8:58 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, two men were arguing and one displayed a handgun but was gone before police arrived.

**Assault**  
On May 5 at 7:15 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man working at a counter was assaulted by two customers who approached with a woman and said the man had disrespected their sister. The customers then struck him.

On May 8 at 1:16 a.m. near 9210 Springhill Lane, a resident was upset by a car alarm going off while nearby men were drinking and causing a disturbance. The resident confronted them with a firearm taken from his pocket.

On May 10 at 4:43 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a man was in an argument with another man who swung a bladed weapon towards him then got in his vehicle and left. The man had a picture of the assailant taken while he was in the vehicle.

**Break-ins**  
On May 6 at 2 p.m. near

6164 Springhill Terrace, someone gained entry into a residence and stole property but left no signs of forced entry.

On May 9 at 7:46 p.m. near 7501 Greenway Center Drive, someone broke into an office and rummaged through it. Several office suites were damaged but nothing valuable was missing.

On May 6 at 9:17 p.m. near 5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace, a woman was in her bedroom and heard a noise in the living room. She found a man there who possibly lives in the complex. She refused further police action.

**DUI Arrest**  
On May 10 at 12:05 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive, a running vehicle was stopped in the middle of the road with the driver slumped over. The driver had several indicators of impairment and was arrested for DUI.

**Fraud**  
On May 7 at 5:51 p.m. near 7753 Belle Point Drive, a fraudulent American Airlines employee contacted someone who then sent money through a payment app to order uniforms for an alleged new job.

**Indecent Behavior**  
On May 5 at 5:53 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an officer on patrol came upon a male urinating on the wall in an area with several pedestrians and cars passing by. He was given a criminal citation and banned from the mall.

**Vandalism**  
On May 6 at 7:54 p.m. near 7857 Walker Drive, officers noticed red and black graffiti on the top floor of a stairwell.

On May 11 at 9:48 a.m. near 9106 Springhill Lane, someone had written on the walls inside an apartment building.

**Theft and Shoplifting**  
On May 5 at 10:30 p.m. near 9124 Edmonston Court, money was stolen from a woman's apartment; she blamed maintenance, but there was no record of service to her unit that day.

On May 7 at 5:53 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman had several items from a store but could not provide any proof of payment; the items were returned.

On May 8 at 12:04 p.m. near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a fired employee failed to return a company laptop.

On May 8 at 2:12 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two girls were caught stealing items; they were detained, identified and

released to a guardian, and the merchandise was returned.

On May 8 at 6:12 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two boys stole items. Officers found them, they confessed, and the items were returned.

On May 9 at 12:24 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a contractor on a roof observed that an air conditioning unit had been vandalized and was missing all of its copper components.

On May 9 at 4:03 p.m. near 7619 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items.

On May 10 at 16:26 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, three girls stole cosmetics.

**Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles**  
Three vehicles were stolen: on May 6 near 6007 Springhill Drive, a black 2016 Cadillac SRX (Md. 7FP9494); on May 7 near 5817 Cherrywood Lane, a 2021 gray Nissan Kicks (Md. 8GJ7575); and on May 11 near 6160 Springhill Terrace, a 2013 Kia Soul (Md. 3GK7015).

**Theft from Auto**  
All four wheels were stolen from a Toyota Camry on May 7 near 5805 Cherrywood Lane, and from a 2023 Toyota RAV4 on May 8 near 6440 Cherrywood Lane.

On May 7 near 5 Gardenway, a 2008 Hyundai Elantra had a window broken and items missing.

On May 8 near 6124 Breezewood Drive, a license plate was stolen.

**Vandalism to Auto**  
On May 5 near 446 Ridge Road, a 2006 Jeep's front tire was found flat with a hole in it.

On May 7 at 2:20 a.m. near 7901 Mandan Road, a security guard witnessed two boys shattering a window on a 2012 Hyundai Elantra. Once spotted, the boys ran away.

On May 7 at 6:56 p.m. near 9172 Springhill Lane, a boy tried to gain entry to a 2014 Nissan Altima, damaging the window trim.

On May 9 near 5821 Cherrywood Lane, a 2012 Toyota Highlander had a window missing.

On May 10 at 11:09 p.m. near 9334 Edmonston Road, four subjects were recorded by surveillance camera as they broke the rear window of a Jeep and fled towards the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

On May 10 near 5821 Cherrywood Lane, a 2018 Hyundai Kona had window and ignition damage.

# City Charter Amended to Reflect Increased Council Compensation

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On April 28 the Greenbelt City Council amended the City Charter, Section 4 Creation; Qualifications; Compensation to raise the compensation of council. The motion passed 6 to 1 with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed.

Opening the public hearing, Mayor Emmett Jordan said council salaries had not been increased since November 2007 although a salary increase was approved during Fiscal Year 2024.

Resident Bill Orleans spoke in opposition to an increase, citing council's recent move to reduce the number of their meetings, among other things. He also objected to the process of council increasing the salary for the next body when it's highly likely six members will run for re-election and the appointed member will run for election, thus directly benefiting themselves, he said.

The process of a current council body voting on the compensation of a future one is how the process is supposed to work. In this case the vote to increase compensation was already taken in 2023 and is currently in effect but not reflected in the City Charter.

Former councilmember J Davis argued that councilmembers not only attend meetings but also talk with constituents and attend an assortment of city events.

The work of a councilmember is meeting with officials, going to conferences and includes after-hours activities, preparation and many other things if done correctly, said Davis. "The money is definitely deserved and should have happened probably years ago, while I was still on council."

There were no further comments from the public.

The change was already voted on during the last term, clarified Councilmember Kristen Weaver, saying the fact the council salary is in the city charter is why the amendment is needed.

The amendment changed the compensation the mayor receives from \$12,000 a year to \$14,000 and the salary of other councilmembers from \$10,000 to \$12,000. Council is already receiving compensation at this adjusted level.

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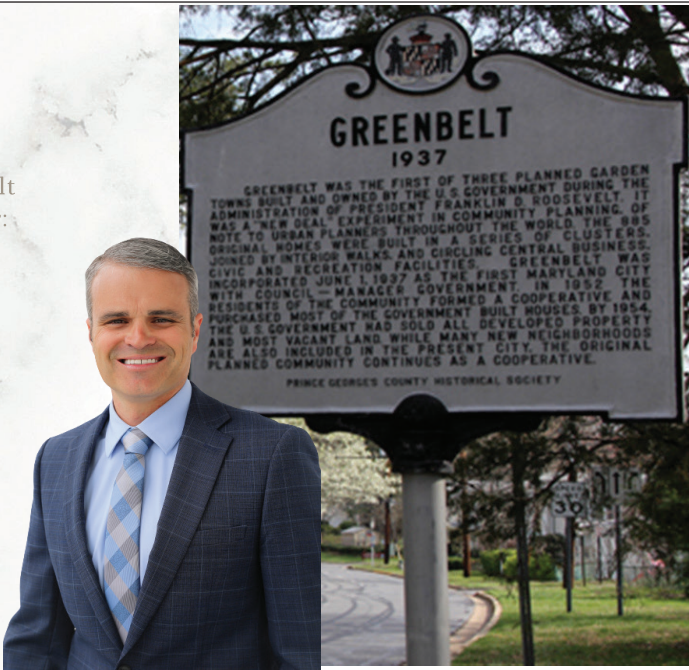
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Sports

Raiders Seek State Championship, Win County, Regional Titles in Softball, Lacrosse

by Patrick Gleason

With a trio of commanding victories on Monday, May 12, Eleanor Roosevelt High School spring sports teams have continued a successful campaign. The softball team started the afternoon with a never-in-doubt victory over the DuVal Tigers. The 16-0 triumph places the Raiders in the region championship against the Bladensburg Mustangs, who defeated the Flowers Jaguars 12-9. With a victory there, the Raiders would host a Saturday afternoon state quarterfinal, a day after the strong Roosevelt senior class celebrates their senior prom. Pitcher Natalia Jarquin – a Bowie State commit – hopes to repeat last season’s quarterfinal victory over the Richard Montgomery Rockets as the Raiders seek their first state championship since 1985.

Meanwhile, the girls lacrosse team traded early goals with DuVal, before pulling away in the fourth quarter. Juniors Isabelle Becraft and Madison Walker maintained the Raider offense after seniors Cora Moore and Alena Beckmann jump-started the reigning region champions in the third quarter en route to the 13-5 victory. The Raiders enter the state quarterfinals as the number two seed, where they will face a familiar Roosevelt sport foe – the Perry Hall Gators from Baltimore County. The softball squad defeated the Gators in the state semifinals last season, while the girls soccer team fell to them 2-1 this past fall. This is the girls’ fifth region championship.

Finally, the boys team capped Monday’s lacrosse doubleheader by coasting to a 14-1 win over Parkdale. Seniors Ifeoluwa Folorunso and Vishant Bhagat started the scoring for the Raiders in a



Above left: Senior Kaelem Turay and the boys lacrosse team are hoping for the program’s first state quarter final victory. Above right: Senior Nikki Lilja will join teammates Desiree Fuller and Samiah Smith at Lincoln University next spring.



- Photos by Eric Konchou

convincing region final win. With that achievement in hand, Roosevelt will face North County High School next. The Raiders enter the quarterfinals as the state’s top seed after an undefeated regular season. With three county and three region titles in hand this spring, Roosevelt athletics now hopes to add to the impressive haul.



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# Green Man Festival Celebrates Environment, Local Music, Art

This year’s Green Man Festival, which was held on Saturday and Sunday May 10 and 11, landed on a sunny weekend and enjoyed a steady throng of festivalgoers, many adorned with flower headdresses, fairy wings or other costume pieces. Bands performed at the central stage in front of the Mother and Child statue and vendors lined Roosevelt Center selling clothing, jewelry, art and more. Children enjoyed making fairy gardens at one booth. There were also booths for local organizations, including the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS), the organization that adopted the Green Man Festival in 2008, though the festival dates back to 2003. CHEARS offered saved seeds and sold commemorative Green Man T-shirts at their booth. The Roosevelt Center restaurants offered special fare and some set up outdoor stands. Puppets, including dragons, joined the dancers along with musicians parading through the first farmers market of the season on Sunday morning.



A spirited array of happy and rhythmic drummers gathered about 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 10 in the plaza at Roosevelt Center to open the annual Greenbelt Green Man Festival.



The opening ceremony of the Festival



The Green Man himself

- Photos by Peter Teuben



A red dragon parades through the Festival.



A happy group of witches poses at the Festival.



Swamp Monster reads a magazine at the Festival.

# Greenbelt Farmers Market Season Opens for Summer

by Jake Ballard

Sunday, May 11 marked not only Mother’s Day but also opening day for the Greenbelt Farmers Market.

Going back to 2008, the Farmers Market has been a fixture of Greenbelt, starting the second Sunday of May every year. With the exception of Labor Day weekend, it runs until the week-end before Thanksgiving, returning for a special holiday market in early December.

The market has around 30 to 40 vendors each Sunday, but the vendors change week by week. Some are there weekly, but some are pop-up vendors, there about every other week or a certain series of weeks.

The market provides a plethora of options that go beyond the expected produce. Available products range from fruits and vegetables to things like Thai food, bread and soap. Timothy Obenshain, who described himself and his wife as regulars at the market, credited the variety as one of the main reasons that they keep coming back. “We usually stock up a little bit on vegetables, my wife likes getting fresh flowers every now and then,” Obenshain said, “and we buy soap here, we get fruit.”

The variety is only part of it though, as Obenshain also credited the community aspect as one of the reasons he keeps returning

to the market. It allows people to see others from the community as well as support local farmers and vendors. The market is also community-led and mostly staffed by volunteers.

This year the convergence of opening day, Mother’s Day, the Green Man Festival and wonderful weather brought more people to the market than usual. Matt Cruz, who runs the tent for Agripina and Bloom, ran out of product quickly. “I brought all my stems with me today knowing that it was going to be busy,” Cruz said. “The community just really came out and supported it.”

The market is a hub of community for Greenbelt residents, but also the vendors. A micro-community has formed among the group.

Cruz said he finds everyone at the market easy to get along with, and that despite being a pop-up vendor, he is able to recognize the people around him and they have friendly relationships.

“[I notice] the vendors that are here regularly, how they communicate, and like they haven’t seen each other since whenever the market ended last year so you definitely see that camaraderie amongst them,” Cruz said.

Jake Ballard is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



Greenbelt Farmers Market opened on Sunday to eager shoppers and beautiful weather.



New vendors arrive.



Old favorites return to the Farmers Market.